

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A[[n]] ~~system stored on computer readable media~~ application programming interface, comprising:  
an input component that ~~receives data and/or instructions~~ reads a meta-model to determine a structure of an item; and,  
the meta-model comprising at least one meta-relationship and at least one meta-class, the at least one meta-relationship describing one or more relationships between meta-classes and the at least one meta-class being a class encapsulating data employed to represent another class a  
~~meta-model object that is processed by input component, the meta-data model interrelates data via a class hierarchy.~~
- 2-3. (Canceled).
4. (Currently amended) The ~~application programming interface~~ system of claim 1, the input component is associated with services that operate in conjunction with an operating system framework.
- 5-7. (Canceled).
8. (Currently amended) The ~~application programming interface~~ system of claim [[7]]1, the item is a document.
- 9-10. (Canceled).
11. (Currently amended) The ~~application programming interface~~ system of claim [[9]]1, the at least one meta-class is associated with a relational database.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~application programming interface~~ system of claim ~~[[9]]~~1, the at least one meta-class is identified *via* a globally unique identifier.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~application programming interface~~ system of claim ~~[[9]]~~1, the at least one meta-class is identified *via* at least one of a name and a caption to facilitate application development.

14-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The ~~application programming interface~~ system of claim ~~[[9]]~~1, the at least one meta-relationship optionally includ~~[[es]]~~ing at least one meta-role.

19-21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently amended) A data management system stored on computer readable media, comprising:

a processing component that receives an item that ~~includes~~comprises a meta-model, the meta-model comprising one or more meta-classes, the one or more meta-classes comprising classes encapsulating data employed to represent another class ~~data annotations~~; and

an analysis component that determines at runtime a structure of ~~[[an]]~~the item by reading the meta-model ~~*via* deployment of the meta-data annotations~~.

23-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~Computer executable instructions for performing a method to process meta-data, the computer executable instructions stored on computer readable media, the method comprising:

~~determining~~receiving at least one meta-model object, the meta-model object comprising at least one meta-relationship between two or more meta-model classes ~~parameters in accordance with a meta-model class describing the structure of an item~~;

determining the structure of an item according to the meta-relationship[[s]] between the two or more in view of the meta-model classes; and

~~inheriting properties to the meta-model class from at least one of another class and an operating system framework to facilitate development of meta-data applications.~~

30-34. (Canceled).

35. (Currently amended) A computer implemented system stored on computer readable media, the system to facilitate meta-data interactions with an operating system determining the structure of an item, comprising:

means for modeling a meta-data object, the meta-data object comprising a meta-model, the meta-model comprising a meta-relationship between two or more classes;

~~means for relating the meta-data object to at least one class; and~~

means for interacting with an operating system determining the structure of the item at least in part via the meta-relationship data object.

36-41. (Canceled).